

III. In the Claims.

1. Please amend claim 1, 7 and 17 as follows:
 1. (Currently amended) An automotive signal lens system comprising:
 - a light source;
 - a reflective surface;
 - a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a ~~substantially planar~~ layer;
 - the ~~substantially planar~~ layer embedded in a vehicle structural component; and
 - the light source located between the reflective surface and the ~~planar~~ layer.
 2. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 1, wherein the light transmitting elements each have a central axis that is inclined to a reflective surface at an angle in the range of 0° to 45°.
 3. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 2 further comprising a plurality of light sources.
 4. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 3 wherein each light source is aligned with at least one light transmitting element.
 5. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 4, wherein an outer surface of each light transmitting element is coplanar with each adjacent light transmitting element outer surface.
 6. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 1, whereby:
 - a first line drawn between adjacent light transmitting elements when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third light transmitting element, the second line having a length d_2 ;
 - the light transmitting elements each having a diameter d_1 ; and
 - $d_2 < d_1$.
 7. (Currently amended) A lens comprising:

a reflective surface; and
a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a bundle describing a ~~substantially planar~~ layer;
the ~~substantially planar~~ layer integral to a vehicle bumper; and
the reflective surface arranged substantially parallel to the ~~planar~~ layer whereby a light is reflected from the reflective surface and received by at least one light transmitting element.

8. (Previously cancelled).

9. (Allowed) A signal lens comprising:

a light source;
a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent to each other comprising a light emitting surface; and
the light emitting surface having a visual appearance substantially the same as an adjacent vehicle member surface in which the light emitting surface is embedded when the light source is off.

10. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 9, wherein the light transmitting elements each have a central axis and each inclined to the reflective surface at an angle greater than 0° and less than or equal to 45°.

11. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 9 further comprising a plurality of light sources.

12. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 9 wherein the light transmitting elements form a substantially planar layer.

13. (Allowed) A signal lens system comprising:

a light source;
a light emitting surface illuminated by the light source;
the light emitting surface integral to a member surface;

the member surface transparent to a light transmitted from the light emitting surface; and

the light emitting surface is not substantially visually distinguishable from the member surface when the light source is not illuminated.

14. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 13 further comprising:

a reflective surface; and

the light source disposed between the reflective surface and the light emitting surface.

15. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 14, wherein the light emitting surface further comprises:

light transmitting elements each having a central axis and each inclined to the reflective surface at an angle greater than 0° and less than or equal to 45° .

16. (Allowed) A signal lens system comprising:

a light source;

a reflective surface;

a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a substantially planar layer;

the light source located between the reflective surface and the planar layer; and

a first line drawn between adjacent light transmitting elements when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third light transmitting element, the second line having a length d_2 , the light transmitting elements each having a diameter d_1 , and $d_2 < d_1$.

17. (Currently amended) A signal lens system comprising:

a light source;

a reflective surface;

a plurality of fiber optic strands molded into a member material and arranged substantially adjacent to and substantially parallel to each other to form a ~~substantially planar~~ layer; and

the light source located between the reflective surface and the planar layer;

a first line drawn between adjacent fiber optic strands when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third fiber optic strand, the second line having a length d_2 , the fiber optic strands each having a diameter d_1 , and

$$d_2 < d_1.$$

18. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 17, wherein the fiber optic strands each have a central axis that is inclined to a reflective surface at an angle in the range of 0° to 45° .

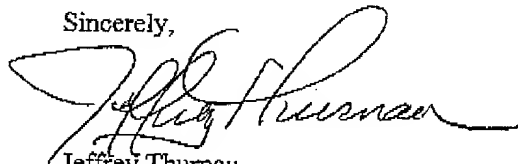
19. (Allowed) The signal lens as in claim 13 wherein the member surface further comprises a tint.

Fees.

Any fees payable for this amendment can be deducted from deposit account 07-0475 in the name of the Gates Corporation.

Thank you for your attention to this case. If any questions arise, please call at the number below.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Thurnau
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,183
303-744-4743

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